



February 4, 2025

Honorable Representative Maxine Dibert
State Capitol Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Dibert.

On behalf of NEA-Alaska members, thank you for introducing House Bill 12.

NEA-Alaska members whole-heartedly support House Bill 12 and have made its passage a top legislative priority.

As you undoubtedly know, students who are hungry cannot learn, grow, and succeed.

The human brain requires fuel. Without breakfast, students are trying to run a complex machine on empty. Studies also show that students who have longer attention spans and are better able to focus in class. Consistent access to nutritious meals is linked to better grades and overall academic achievement.

Reduced absenteeism is another educational benefit of House Bill 12. Hungry students are more likely to be tardy or absent. Regular meals help improve attendance, ensuring students are in class and ready to learn.

Investing in meals is an investment in education. Providing meals is not a matter of charity, it's a strategic investment in student success and the future of Alaska.

The proposal in House Bill 12 is an elegant and well-crafted proposal, we believe it is the most effective solution. Offering meals to all students eliminates stigma and ensures that everyone benefits.

Thank you for championing this important policy proposal. As you know, nutrition is fundamental to learning. Students cannot reach their full potential if they are hungry. House Bill 12 is transformational and will improve Alaska student well-being and outcomes.

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Thank you,

Tom Klaameyer, President, NEA-Alaska

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